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ABSTRACT

The significant aspects of tests administered to entering freshmen of the University of Wisconsin--Madison are summarized. Information is proved on 11 instruments which appear on the University of Wisconsin--Madison New Freshmen Profile, 1972 form. The test forms, time limits, number of items, scoring formulas, types of scores, and item content are described. (Author)

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Earl Nolting

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY OF ADMISSION AND FRESHMAN PLACEMENT TESTS USED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN--MADISON

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University of Wisconsin--Madison

Students wishing to enter the University of Wisconsin--Madison, must submit scores for the American College Testing (ACT) Program or the College Entrance Examination Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) as part of their application for admission. After the student has been admitted he must take several tests for placement in math, English, and foreign language courses. Information obtained from these tests may also be used for general counseling and advising purposes.

Each of the University of Wisconsin admission and placement tests is described in Table 1. Local normative data for the CQT, English, and math placement tests previously have been published (Thomas, 1969).

TABLE 1

DESCRIPTION OF U.W. ADMISSION AND FRESHMAN PLACEMENT TESTS

TEST	FORM(S)/YEAR	TIME(MINS)	# OF ITEMS	SCORING FORMULA	TYPE OF SCORES	CONTENT
American College Testing Program (ACT) $10.00 Administration fee	yearly, 13A (1971)	(160)				
Sub-Parts:						
English		40	75	# Right	Standard Scores Scaled 0-36 Mean 15, SD 5	Grammar, word choic
Mathematics		50	40	"	"	Problems; arithmet plane geometry
Social Studies		35	52	"	"	Information, parag political science, history
Natural Sciences		35	52	"	"	Information, parag biology, chemistry
Composite			Total	"	"	

TEST	FORM(S)/YEAR	TIME(MINS)	# OF ITEMS	SCORING FORMULA	TYPE OF SCORES	CONTENT
Scholastic Aptitude Test (Educational Testing Service) $6.50 fee		180				
Sub-Parts:						
Verbal		75	90	Rights-1/4 wrong	Standard Scores Scaled 20-80 Mean 50, SD 10*	Sentence completion, reading comprehension, analogies, antonyms, concepts in social studies, and natural sciences
Mathematics		75	60	Rights-1/4 wrong	Standard Scores Scaled 20-80 Mean 50, SD 10*	Problems; general math, elementary algebra, geometry. Apply graphic, spatial, numerical, symbolic techniques to problems
College Qualification Test	B (1955, 56)	80				
Sub-Parts:						
Verbal (V)		15	75	# Right	Raw Score: 75 Max	50 synonyms, 25 antonyms
Numerical (N)		35	50	"	Raw Score: 50 Max	Arithmetic, algebra, geometry. Aimed at conceptual skill not at computational or clerical skill.
Information (I)		30	75	"		Multiple - choice questions, breadth of information
Sub-Parts:						
Social Studies					Raw Score: 37 Max	History, government, economics, geography

*ETS reports these scores as 3-digit scores (Mean=500; SD=100; Range 200-800). The last digit is dropped on the U.W. New Freshman Profile.

TEST	FORM(S)/YEAR	TIME(MINS)	# OF ITEMS	SCORING FORMULA	TYPE OF SCORES	CONTENT
Information (I) continued.						
Science					Raw Score: 38 Max	Physics, chemistry, biology
TOTAL: Score for Sub-Parts V + N + I			200	# Right	Raw Score: 200 Max	
U.W. Math Placement-Algebra (Rae Evans and M. Voichick)	2 alternate forms, (1965)	45	30	# Right	Raw Score: 30 Max	Basic skills in algebra problems.
U.W. Math Placement Trigonometry (Rae Evans and M. Voichick)	2 alternate forms, (1965)	30	15	# Right	Raw Score: 15 Max	Basic skills in trigonometry problems (Take if had 2 1/2 years of High School Math at least including some trigonometry.
U.W. Test of Basic Mathematical Skills (Miles and Fritz)	1(1970)	50	50	# Right	Raw Score: Max 50	Basic skills in arithmetic; addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, percentages
Use if CQT - N is 21-23: TOBMS recommended 20 and below: required						
English Recognition (Edna Thomas)	1(1964)	75	150	# Right	Raw Score: 150 Max	Correct usage of spelling, punctuation, grammar, usage, sentence structure, word choice

TEST	FORM(S)/YEAR	TIME(MINS)	# OF ITEMS	SCORING FORMULA	TYPE OF SCORES	CONTENT
Foreign Language (Educational Testing Service)		60				
French	SPL 1 (1964)	60	93	# Right	Raw Score: 93 Max	Grammar, comprehension, logic and structure, language usage
Spanish	PPL 1 (1964)	60	92	"	Raw Score: 92 Max	
German	GPL 1 (1966)	60	92	"	Raw Score: Max 92	
Latin	PPL 1 (1964)	60	63	"	Raw Score: 63 Max	
Russian	PPL 1 (1965)	60	85	"	Raw Score: 85 Max	
Pre-Engineering Ability	ZPA(1952)	80	85	# Right	Raw Score: 85 Max (No part scores)	
Part I		45	45			Comprehension of scientific materials
Part II		35	40			General mathematical ability
Test of English as a Foreign Language - TOEFL (Educational Testing Service)		160		Part scores scaled to mean 50, SD 10		

TEST	FORM(S)/YEAR	TIME(MINS)	# OF ITEMS	SCORING FORMULA	TYPE OF SCORES	CONTENT
Test of English as a Foreign Language (continued)						
Applicants from non-English language countries for admission to American Colleges 6 scores: Listening Comprehension (record or tape) English Structure Vocabulary Reading Comprehension Writing Ability (essay sample) Total						
College Entrance Examination Board Achievement Tests (Educational Testing Service) $10.50 administration fee for 1, 2, 3 tests		one hour tests	50-100	Rights - 1/4 wrong	Standard Scores Scaled 200-800 Mean 500, SD 100	
American History and Social Studies						
Biology						
Chemistry						
English Composition						
European History and World Cultures						
French						

TEST	FORM(S)/YEAR	TIME(MINS)	# OF ITEMS	SCORING FORMULA	TYPE OF SCORES	CONTENT
College Entrance Examination Board Achievement Tests (continued)						
German						
Hebrew						
Italian						
Latin						
Literature						
Mathematics Level I (3 years of college preparatory math)						
Mathematics Level II (more than 3 years college preparatory math)						
Physics						
Russian						
Spanish						

TABLE 2

ABSTRACTED DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH SCHOOL RANK PERCENTILES FOR NEW FRESHMEN

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON CAMPUS
FIRST SEMESTER 1971-72
(END OF SECOND WEEK OF INSTRUCTION)

HIGH SCHOOL RANK PERCENTILES	MEN NO.	MEN ACCUM. %	WOMEN NO.	WOMEN ACCUM. %	TOTAL NO.	TOTAL ACCUM. %
95-99	308	15.2	356	21.7	664	18.1
90-94	240	27.1	303	40.2	543	33.0
85-89	226	38.3	199	52.4	425	44.6
80-84	174	47.0	173	63.0	347	54.1
75-79	186	56.2	132	71.0	318	62.8
.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.
25-29	24	97.2	7	99.1	31	98.0
20-24	24	98.4	9	99.6	33	98.9
15-19	8	98.8	3	99.8	11	99.2
10-14	15	99.5	1	99.9	16	99.7
05-09	8	99.9	1	100.0	9	99.9
00-04	1	100.0		100.0	1	100.0

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